

GERMANS INVEST KOVEL AND DOOM BREST-LITOVSK

Russian Defenses Waver and
Germans Progress on All
Sides, Berlin Says.

TAKE 9,500 PRISONERS

Grand Duke Nicholas Will
Withdraw Safely, It Is Pre-
dicted in London.

RIGA DEFEAT CHECKED TEUTONS

Petrograd Indicates Slav Armies Need
All the Help They Can
Get Now.

London, Aug. 24.—While strong Russian resistance has inflicted a check on German operations in the Baltic provinces, the Teutons, according to official statements received here tonight from Berlin and Vienna, have made progress on all sides of Brest-Litovsk and the complete investment of the fortress within a few days is predicted.

With the occupation of Kovel by strong forces of Austro-Hungarian and German cavalry, the second of the three trunk lines feeding the fortress has been severed. The line from Brest-Litovsk to Petrograd was cut in the neighborhood of Bielek Kovel is an important junction on the railway to Kiev and Odesa.

Besides reporting the capture by storm of a hill at Kopytov on the southwestern front of Brest-Litovsk from which it is stated in Berlin, German guns will be able to command some important fortifications, the Teutonic capitals tonight announce the capture of about 9,500 more Russian prisoners by Von Hindenburg and Prince Leopold of Bavaria.

Ports Cannot Hold.
Semi-official dispatches from Petrograd state, it is admitted in authoritative military circles there, that Brest-Litovsk cannot be held and that its fall with the entire second line is only a matter of time.

Grand Duke Nicholas, it is confidently predicted will be able to safely withdraw his army despite the German efforts to encircle a large number of men within the confines of Brest-Litovsk. Berlin reports progress for the troops moving northeast from Vladova, who are endeavoring to cut the remaining railway out of the fortress and complete the investment.

They are reported to have defeated the Russians in a heavy battle yesterday, and are said now to be pressing the Czars' rear guard through the marshy district east of the Bug.

A dispatch received today from Geneva states that advances received there are to the effect that heavy Austrian forces have repulsed the Russians southwest of Litovsk, north of Brest-Litovsk, and that the great German guns already have the outer works of the stronghold within range.

Russia has massed large numbers of troops on the road to Petrograd, according to dispatches tonight, and military critics in the capital are confident any German attempt to advance across the 200 or more miles between the Dvinsk and Petrograd will meet with failure. These experts make much of the naval action in the Gulf of Riga, which they are confident has brought a serious check to Von Hindenburg's flanking movement there.

They assert that the Czars' troops still retain their hold on both banks of the Niemen from Preney, south of Kovno, to Grodno, one of the few fortresses held by the Russians.

German Plan Failed.
Petrograd, Aug. 24.—Of the operations in the Gulf of Riga, which ended so badly for the Germans, only fragmentary details have become known here.

From the beginning of the war it has been necessary for Russia, in view of the quantitative inferiority of her naval forces in the Baltic, to observe the strictest secrecy regarding the movements of her warships.

The Germans appear to have used a large force in their endeavor to assert their supremacy in the Gulf of Riga.

One semi-official authority has estimated that apart from destroyers their squadron was comprised of twenty-three vessels. The best judges here are careful to avoid exaggeration of the importance of these naval operations. The German plan has failed for the present. To that extent the situation is eased, but that is all that can be said. It would be a fatal mistake if the impression should get abroad that things on this front have taken a decisive turn.

Russia needs all the help she can get and that as quickly as possible.

RIANO DENIES RUMOR.

Spanish Ambassador Not Asked to
Act for Germany.

Newport, R. I., Aug. 24.—Senior Riano, Spanish Ambassador to the United States, today denied the report that he had been asked to take over German interests in diplomatic relations between Germany and the United States are severed.

Columbia, today, 12 noon, continuous, Magnolia Class, "Sloop of the North," after race.

Did't Try to Flee, Capt. Finch Says, In His Affidavit

London, Aug. 24.—The American Embassy this evening made public the affidavit of Capt. Finch, of the White Star liner Arabic, concerning the sinking of his ship on Thursday, together with excerpts from affidavits by six of the American passengers of the lost liner. These affidavits have been cabled to the State Department in Washington.

The affidavits of the Americans corroborate that of the captain's in every detail covering the seven most important points in Finch's affidavit. Those points are as follows:

1. That the Arabic was torpedoed.
2. That no submarine was seen.
3. That no warning of any kind was given.
4. That the Arabic did not try to escape.
5. That had warning been given the Arabic could not have escaped, because there was not time.
6. That the Arabic did not try to ram any submarine.
7. That the Arabic could not have rammed a submarine had it seen one, because there was not sufficient time.

Fisherman's Hook Snags Dead Man

Body of Unidentified Person
Caught by Line Cast Into
C. & O. Canal.

Hiram Kenner, colored, fishing in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal last night with a companion, Frank Sullivan, also colored, tossed his line out over the stream, the hook striking the water about forty feet away. Kenner pulled, felt the hook catch, and tugged at his line. The catch was heavy and both fishermen peered over the bank as the line shortened. A last tug and Kenner drew into the moonlight the pallid face of a dead man.

Horror twisting their faces, the negroes ran the 200 feet to Aqueduct Bridge and told Policeman William H. Hess. Hess went to the bank and pulled in the line and corpse.

The body, found at 9 o'clock, was taken to the morgue. It had been in the water about twenty-four hours, police said. No marks of violence were on it. Six cents and a street car ticket were the only articles found in the clothing, with the exception of a handkerchief marked with a "G." Police records have no description of missing men corresponding with that of the dead man and at a late hour last night the body had not been identified.

The man was 40 or 45 years old, of about 170 pounds weight, 5 feet 8 inches in height and smooth shaven. His hair was dark brown and the clothes were dark gray. Police say the man evidently was employed at ordinary labor, his clothes being of rather poor quality. The initial on the handkerchief was the only mark of identification.

CARDINAL URGES CALMNESS.

U. S. Should Think Before Fighting,
Says Gibbons.

Baltimore, Aug. 24.—Cardinal Gibbons returned from his vacation today and looks the picture of health. He reached the city about noon and went to his home in North Charles street, accompanied by Bishop Dennis J. O'Connell, of Richmond, Va., who spent his vacation with the Cardinal on Long Island.

"War is a terrible thing," said the cardinal, "and we should not lightly jump into the strife that is tearing the world to pieces. We, in this country, know little of the harrowing conditions in the old country. War seems to have a wealth of glory and chivalry, but for the widows and orphans it means endless suffering and pain. The millions in Europe know now what war means."

"The sinking of the steamship Arabic precipitated the present crisis between the United States and Germany. This was an English vessel and it is deplorable that Americans take the risk of traveling on ships that are subject to such dangers."

MINE SANK ARABIC, IS HINT.

German Admiralty Has Received No
Word from Submarines.

Amsterdam, Aug. 24.—The Nieuwe Courant states that the German admiralty announced this morning it had not yet received a report from the commander of any submarine announcing the sinking of the Arabic. It is considered by the admiralty, it is reported unofficially, that the vessel was not sunk by a German submarine, but by an English mine.

Attended Great Rockville Fair. Take Baltimore & Ohio trains at 12:30 a. m. and 12:45 noon, returning after race.

SEEKS TO AVOID BREAK WITH U. S.

Von Bernstorff Will Tell
President Arabic Sinking
Was Unordered.

PRECAUTIONS TAKEN

Says Germany Has Tried to Guard
Against Attacks on Enemy Vessels
Carrying Americans.

New York, Aug. 24.—Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, held a series of conferences at the Ritz-Carlton preliminary to making public a statement to the United States government on the Arabic today.

The Ambassador declined to comment on this statement, which is presented in another column. He made known through a representative, however, that he will use every effort within his power to prevent a break between the United States and Germany.

Count von Bernstorff will ask for an interview with President Wilson, at which he will seek to emphasize these points:

Precautions Taken.

1. Since the diplomatic conversations between Germany and the United States regarding the Arabic, the Gulf Light, and the Cushing, Germany has not interfered with a single ship flying the American flag.
2. Every possible official precaution has been taken by the German government to prevent attacks on British merchantmen on which Americans were known to be passengers.
3. It is not known publicly that Americans were on board the Arabic, because the passenger list and the date of sailing had been kept secret by the White Star Company.

Violation of Orders.

4. That express orders have been given by the German admiralty to submarine commanders that they must give adequate notice to all passenger ships before attacking them; and that if a German submarine sank the Arabic without warning, its officers acted in direct violation of the orders of superiors.

The Ambassador was clearly anxious over persistent reports that the administration contemplated an immediate severance of diplomatic relations if it is proven that a submarine sank the Arabic without warning in anyway.

The Ambassador wired Washington from the summer embassy at Cedarhurst earnestly requesting the United States government not to take a final stand until every fact relating to the Arabic had been established.

Earlier in the day the Ambassador was quoted as having said: "Germany has consulted with no other power regarding taking over the diplomatic affairs of Germany with the United States, because I believe it absolutely impossible there will be a break between Germany and this country."

Haiti Given Until Today to Accept American Demands

Minister Davis Delivers Ultimatum Calling for Control of
Finances and Policing of Nation by United
States Officials.

Port au Prince, Haiti, Aug. 24.—The American government has made formal demand that the Haitian government accept immediately the following terms:

1. Control of the customs and the country's finances under supervision of the American government.
2. Agreement not to cede to any country other than the United States any portion of Haitian territory.
3. Establishment of rural army district police to be made up of Haitians commanded by Americans.

The American demands further recite that revenues collected by Americans temporarily in charge of the customs and other revenue agencies shall be distributed in the following order of precedence:

1. To pay American employees.
2. To settle Haitian bonds.
3. To defray expenditures for which appropriations are made under the budget.

Time Up Today.
Minister Davis has given the Haitian government until tomorrow to agree to these terms, which were placed before the chambers yesterday.

Deputies and senators have expressed themselves as opposed to the terms, which they declare are unreasonable. Especially do they oppose complete control of the finances by the American government.

While government officials refuse to admit that trouble is imminent in Haiti and that there are signs of unrest in Santo Domingo, orders issued yesterday indicate the United States is apprehensive of armed activities in the two republics. The cruiser Tennessee is about to start for Port au Prince with a detachment of 350 marines aboard, together with

ACCUSED OF POSTAL THEFT.

Domenico Vita at Hearing Denies
Knowledge of Bonds Missing.

Domenico Vita, an employee of the Washington Terminal Company, was held under a \$3,000 bond yesterday by United States Commissioner Isaac R. Hitt, to wait the action of the grand jury on a charge of stealing from the United States mail. Postoffice Inspectors Conner and Robertson and Detective Grant made the arrest.

Inspector Robertson testified at the hearing that a short time ago a package containing bonds of the value of \$35,000 disappeared from one of the mail cars. The bonds have not been recovered and the defendant denied knowing anything about them.

The accused is represented by Attorney Henry I. Quinn and McInerney & Albion.

Spain Gets Berlin's Regrets.

Berlin (wireless via Saville), Aug. 24.—The German Ambassador at Madrid has expressed his government's regret for the sinking of the steamer Lusitania by a German submarine.

Russ Warship Sunk.

Berlin, Aug. 24.—The admiralty announced today that a German submarine had torpedoed and sunk a Russian auxiliary warship at the entrance to the Gulf of Finland.

Would Regret Loss Of American Lives, Message of Kaiser

Following is the statement
given yesterday by Count von Bern-
storff yesterday:

"So far no official information is available concerning the sinking of the Arabic. The German government trusts that the American government will not take a definite stand after hearing only the reports of one side, which, in the opinion of the imperial German government, cannot correspond with the facts, but that a chance will be given to Germany to be heard equally."

"Although the imperial government does not doubt the good faith of the witnesses, whose statements are reported by the newspapers in Europe, it should be borne in mind that the statements are naturally made under excitement which might produce wrong impressions."

"If Americans should actually have lost their lives, this would naturally be contrary to our intention. The German government would deeply regret the fact and beg to tender sincerest sympathy to the American government."

U. S. Navy Ready Daniels Asserts

In Statement at Boston, Sec-
retary Says Officers and
Men Are Fit.

Boston, Aug. 24.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels, after inspecting the navy yard today, received the newspaper men and made this statement:

"The United States navy is prepared. It is ready for any emergency. Today there are fifty more ships in commission and 6,000 more enlisted men than when I assumed office two years ago. The navy has devoted more time to target practice and to maneuvers in that time than it has at any time since the establishment of the new navy. I am perfectly satisfied with the officers and men. They could do better, but no other navy is doing any better, and our navy has never done any better."

"I intend to ask Congress at its next session to adopt a progressive naval program. I shall advocate a stronger navy with faster ships and more submarines and aeroplanes."

HUNTINGTON-WILSON RESIDENT OF RENO

Former State Department Official Re-
fuses to Discuss Reports of
Divorce Petition.

Reno, Aug. 24.—Huntington Wilson, Assistant Secretary of State under Philander Knox, and third assistant under Elihu Root, has established a residence here. He refused to discuss reports that he will sue for divorce in about one month, when he will have been here six months. Mr. Wilson denies himself to all interviewers and is seen only in the company of a few prominent Easterners here on account of marital difficulties.

FINLAND'S INVASION BALKED.

German Fleet's Defeat in Gulf of
Riga Spoiled Plan.

Copenhagen, Aug. 24.—German invasion of Finland was to have followed the capture of Riga by the German fleet which penetrated the Gulf of Riga, where it was defeated by a Russian fleet. Information to this effect was obtained here today.

According to this information, German men-of-war were to have continued up the Baltic and to have landed troops after the forces of Gen. von Eselow occupied Riga. However, the defeat of the German fleet frustrated this plan.

LINER MAROWLINE LOST.

United Fruit Company Convicted
Her 47 Passengers Are Dead.

New Orleans, La., Aug. 24.—Wireless reports from the government wireless station at Key West to the United Fruit Company here today, stating that wreckage had been reported fifty miles north of Yucatan and sixty miles north of Alacran Reef, convinced officials of the company that the passenger steamer Marowline sank in the recent hurricane and all of the sixty-eight passengers on board perished.

Church Entered: Money Stolen.
William F. Bell, sexton of the Waugh Methodist Episcopal Church, Third and A streets northeast, reported to the police yesterday the chapel had been entered by thieves recently and a Sunday school bank, containing a small amount of money, stolen. Entrance was made through a rear window.

Sept. 6—Labor Day Outing, Luray, Va. Lv. Washington 8:10, Alexandria, 8:27 a. m. Southern Railway, 12 round trip.—Adv.

KAISER DENIES 'UNFRIENDLY ACT'

Count Von Bernstorff Delivers Message from
Berlin Saying Loss of American Lives
Would be Contrary to German Intention

FIRST RAY OF HOPE IN CRISIS

Officials of United States Take Expression to Mean Desire
by Kaiser to Meet American Demands in Regard
to Submarine Warfare.

The first ray of hope in the crisis that has arisen between the United States and Germany over the sinking of the steamship Arabic came yesterday when Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, forwarded to the State Department instructions which he had received from his government.

The Berlin foreign office says that it has not yet received a report on the sinking of the Arabic, asks the United States to suspend judgment until the German side of the incident has been heard, expresses doubt as to the accuracy of the British reports, and concludes with these two significant sentences:

"If Americans should actually have lost their lives, this would naturally be contrary to our intentions. The German government would deeply regret the fact and beg to tender sincerest sympathies to the American government."

The happy effect of this communication was immediately apparent in all official quarters in Washington. No formal comment was made by the American authorities, but it was evident that the Bernstorff dispatch had aroused strong hope that the way was opening for some settlement of this latest German attack upon American life without a break in diplomatic relations and the risk of open hostilities.

It was again made clear that there is no abatement of the President's determination to sever diplomatic relations with the Kaiser's government if the circumstances of the White Star liner turn out as they now appear to be and if Germany fails to disavow the act of her submarine commander.

WILSON WILL TAKE NO BACKWARD STEP.

At the same time it was made known here again yesterday that the President is willing to go as far as he can go consistently with the honor and dignity of the United States to avoid a rupture with Germany. In other words, the situation is this:

The President is determined to stand by his previous warnings to Germany and to take no backward step, but he looks to Germany either to disavow the attack upon the Arabic or to present an explanation which will satisfy this government.

The chief significance of the German communication as viewed by Washington officials is that it indicates clearly that Germany desires to avoid trouble with the United States and is prepared to go to a considerable length to prevent it. This alone was encouraging information for Washington officials, for

NEAR-DISAVOWAL BY KAISER.

Further than this there are suggestions in the German communication which many officials here feel forebode a disavowal of the Arabic incident, or, at least, an explanation which will serve to avert a crisis. This is the sentence to which Washington officials attach the most importance:

"If Americans should actually have lost their lives this would naturally be contrary to our intentions."

Many contended last night that this statement alone goes further toward a disavowal of unfriendly intent than any that has been made by Germany in its notes to this government on the submarine issue.

The general impression among Washington officials though was that this sentence could not be construed as any actual concession by Germany in regard to the contentions which she has advanced in the submarine controversy.

The statement was regarded here as a happy way of putting the declaration which Germany has advanced in previous communications that she could not be held responsible for accidents to neutrals who were traveling on belligerent vessels.

For instance, Germany's expression of regret in regard to the loss of the two American lives on the Arabic contrasts impressively with an expression of similar purport delivered by Germany after the sinking of the Lusitania with its big death toll of Americans. After the Lusitania incident the only expression given out was a brief statement from the State Department, which was made public at the request of the German Ambassador. It read:

"The German Ambassador called at the State Department today and expressed deep regret that the events of the war had led to the loss of so many American lives."

GERMANY UNRESPONSIVE BEFORE.

In response to the specific demands of the United States government for a disavowal of the acts of her submarine commanders violating American life, Germany also has been unresponsive.

In the note of May 28, for instance, replying to the first demand of the United States, the Kaiser's government merely said:

"With regard to the loss of life when the British passenger steamer Lusitania was sunk the German government has already expressed its deep regret to the neutral governments concerned that nationals of those countries lost their lives on that occasion."

Again the United States reiterated its demands for a disavowal, but in the second reply these were ignored entirely by Germany. Washington officials feel that the tone of yesterday's communication gives promise of more satisfactory developments in the future.

There is another feature of the Bernstorff instructions which authorities here regarded as significant. In referring to the present one-sided report of the Arabic incident the German government says that this report, in its opinion, "cannot correspond with the facts."

Inasmuch as Germany acknowledges in the communication that she has had no report on the sinking of the Arabic the question immediately asked here was why Germany seemed to be so confident that the facts were inaccurate.

Many were inclined to believe that this statement may have been based upon orders of some character issued by the German admiralty for the con-



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